## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01078 151111Z ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 FBOE-00 L-03 /018 W

-----151115Z 046463 /21

R 151034Z FEB 77 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5206 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

**UNCLAS GENEVA 1078** 

FOR S/CPR: ALSO FOR IO/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: FDIP, AFSP

SUBJECT: TAXATION OF WATER IN PRIVATE LEASING

- 1. A REVIEW OF LEASES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT AS WELL AS THOSE BEING PROCESSED REVEALS THE FREQUENT INCLUSIONS OF "TAX FOR WATER PURIFICATION." THIS CLAUSE WHICH IS NOT PART OF STANDARD LEASES IS USUALLY ADDED AS A DIRECT CHARGE TO LESSEE RATHER THAN TO OWNERS. THIS TAX IS IN ADDITION TO CHARGES FOR ACTUAL METERED WATER CONSUMPTION. THE COMPUTATION IS BASED ON VALUE OF DWELLING AT TIME OF CONSTRUCTION (1/100) AND CONTINUING CHANGE THEREAFTER AT THE RATE OF ONE PER 1,000 PER ANNUM.
- 2. WHILE THIS SEEM AS A DIRECT BENEFICIAL TAX THE CONSENSUS AMONG VARIOUS LEGAL EXPERTS IS THAT "IF IT IS BASED ON THE VALUE OF THE DWELLING, NOT ON VOLUME OF WATER CONSUMPTION, AND IF THE WATER TAX BILLING IS SEPARATE FROM THE CONSUMPTION BILLING; THEN THE TAX IS PROPERLY PAYABLE BY THE OWNER, NOT BY THE LESSEE OF THE DWELLING."
- 3. FYI. MOST REAL ESTATE AGENCIES (REGIES) CONSIDER THIS TAX PART OF LESSEE RESPONSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH SWISS MISSION AGREES THIS PROBABLY NOT APPROPRIATE IN VIEW RECIPROCITY AND USUAL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01078 151111Z

- 4. U.S. MISSION NEW YORK REPORTS WATER TAXES AND CONSUMPTION BILL NEITHER A PART OF LEASE NOR A CHARGE TO LESSEE.
- 5. PLEASE ADVISE. CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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